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ARTICLE 6 OF THE CONVENTION

Report of the workshop on the development of a work programme on Article 6 of the Convention

Note by the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice*

Summary

A workshop on the development of a Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) work programme on Article 6 of the Convention was organized by the secretariat in Bonn, Germany, from 2 to 3 June 2002. This report outlines the operational objectives and possible scope of activities of a proposed five-year work programme, reviews the potential role of the various entities in its implementation, and recognizes the need for financial resources.

The SBSTA may wish to take note of the information contained in this report to identify matters for further consideration, and may wish to call relevant issues to the attention of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI).

* The document was submitted late following a decision to reedit the original text, which was contained in FCCC/SBSTA/2002/INF.10.

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Mandate

1. At its fourteenth session, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) suggested that the secretariat might consider organizing a workshop to discuss the prioritization of elements of an SBSTA work programme on Article 6 of the Convention. The SBSTA noted the useful contributions made by United Nations organizations as well as by other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in addressing Article 6 issues, and invited these organizations to provide information to the secretariat on their related activities for consideration at the workshop (FCCC/SBSTA/2001/2, para. 27).

2. At its fifteenth session, the SBSTA considered a document containing an analysis of information and comments received from Parties and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and presented, inter alia, proposals and options on integrating Article 6 into the SBSTA work programme (FCCC/SBSTA/2001/6 and Add.1). The SBSTA requested the secretariat, resources permitting, to organize a workshop to develop a work programme on Article 6 activities, and set out draft terms of reference for the workshop (FCCC/SBSTA/2001/8, para. 45 (e), and annex II).

3. The SBSTA invited Parties to provide comments on the draft terms of reference of the workshop, and requested the secretariat to prepare a report on the results of the workshop for consideration at its sixteenth session. Submissions from Parties are contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2002/MISC.13.

B. Scope of the note

4. This report provides information on the workshop organized by the secretariat in response to the above mandate.

C. Possible action by the SBSTA

5. The SBSTA may wish to take note of the information contained in this report to identify matters for further consideration and to agree on further action. It may also wish to call relevant issues to the attention of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI).

II. PROCEEDINGS

6. The UNFCCC workshop on the development of an SBSTA work programme on Article 6 of the Convention was organized by the secretariat in Bonn, Germany, from 2 to 3 June 2002, with financial support from the Governments of Belgium and the United States of America. Thirty-seven participants took part in the workshop, comprising 24 representatives from 21 Parties (including 13 participants from Parties not included in Annex I (non-Annex I Parties) and Parties with economies in transition), four resource persons selected by the secretariat, and nine representatives from intergovernmental organizations. The workshop was chaired by the Chair of the SBSTA, Mr. Halldor Thorgeirsson.

7. To assist participants in developing a possible SBSTA work programme on Article 6, the secretariat had prepared papers for consideration at the workshop: a paper presenting background information on how Article 6 had been addressed in the climate change negotiations to date, a paper containing a possible framework and structure for the report on the output of the workshop, and a paper containing draft elements for an SBSTA work programme on Article 6 that had been derived from previous input from Parties. The participants also had available a compilation and analysis of information received from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and United Nations organizations on their Article 6 related activities, including information on their efforts to disseminate

the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Third Assessment Report prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in collaboration with the secretariat.

8. Participants were divided into two working groups to consider, in parallel sessions, the draft elements for an SBSTA work programme on Article 6. The working groups were chaired by Mr. Jean-Pascal van Ypersele (Belgium), and Mr. Kok Kee Chow (Malaysia). Following each session, participants reconvened in plenary to report the outcome of their discussions, provide additional comments and consider the next steps.

9. As well as the working group sessions, the workshop included expert presentations on Article 6 by representatives from Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, convention secretariats and the media. On the first day of the workshop, presentations were made by Mr. David Lesolle (Botswana) on key issues arising from national activities relating to the implementation of Article 6 in Botswana, Ms. Cheemin Kwon and Ms. Jan Sheltinga (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)) on experience gained by the UNCCD, and Mr. Alexander Haydendael (Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)) on experience gained by the CBD. Parties made brief presentations on their national experiences of, and key issues in, implementing Article 6. Participants also heard presentations from Mr. Youba Sokona (Environmental Development Action in the Third World (ENDA)) on the institutional framework for public participation and awareness raising in the climate change process, and from Mr. Robert Lamb (TVE International) on climate change and the media.

10. On the second day, presentations were made by Mr. Jean-Pascal van Ypersele (Belgium) on North–South partnership opportunities, Ms. Heather Creech (International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)) on training young professionals through an internship programme, Mr. Michael Williams (UNEP) on the survey and analysis of contributions from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to the furtherance of Article 6, Ms. Wendy Goldstein (World Conservation Union/IUCN) on communicating climate change, and Mr. Kevin Grose (UNFCCC) on synergies between conventions on Article 6 activities.

11. In conclusion, the Chair noted that the output of this workshop would be presented to, and considered by, the SBSTA.

III. WORKSHOP OUTPUT

A. Introduction

12. Article 6 of the Convention states that Parties, in carrying out their commitments under Article 4, paragraph 1(i), shall:

(a) Promote and facilitate at the national and, as appropriate, subregional and regional levels, and in accordance with national laws and regulations, and within their respective capacities:

(i) The development and implementation of educational and public awareness programmes on climate change and its effects;

(ii) Public access to information on climate change and its effects;

(iii) Public participation in addressing climate change and its effects and developing adequate responses; and

(iv) Training of scientific, technical and managerial personnel.

(b) Cooperate in and promote, at the international level, and, where appropriate, using existing bodies:

(i) The development and exchange of educational and public awareness material on climate change and its effects; and

(ii) The development and implementation of education and training programmes, including the strengthening of national institutions and the exchange or secondment of personnel to train experts in this field, in particular for developing countries.

13. In developing a work programme on Article 6, the SBSTA may wish to note that:

(a) The promotion and facilitation, at the national, regional and subregional level, of education and training in, and public awareness of, climate change are important for providing the knowledge and the skills required in order to achieve the objective of the Convention. Cooperation on education, training and public awareness at the international level can enhance the ability of Parties to the Convention to collectively improve the implementation of their commitments;

(b) Education, training, public awareness and public participation are social instruments which can be useful for gaining the cooperation of social groups (key sectors, business, communities and individuals) in addressing climate change issues. They can help to engage stakeholders in developing policy and to increase their involvement in implementation. Social instruments have a role in gaining voluntary cooperation, supporting the use of other government instruments and promoting sustainable development through the involvement of all stakeholders and major groups;

(c) Many governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations, as well as the private sector, are already working actively to raise awareness of the causes and impacts of climate change, as well as of possible solutions;

(d) Both Annex I and non-Annex I Parties face several possible barriers to the implementation of Article 6, as reported in national communications, including the lack of financial resources and institutional capacity. Information available in national communications and in other published materials regarding Parties' activities on Article 6 is difficult to assess, due in part to the lack of adequate reporting guidelines.

B. Possible scope of activities

14. In developing a work programme on Article 6, the SBSTA may wish to consider the possible scope of the activities outlined below.

(a) Education aims to assist and guide personal learning processes covering, in particular, the acquisition of the knowledge needed to comprehend the overall interrelatedness of climate change issues, the adoption of an attitude of concern towards the environment, and an understanding of the overall context of sustainable development. Education may take place in formal or non-formal settings. Education activities can include:

(i) University-level activities;

(ii) Research, studies and resulting publications;

(iii) Activities for primary and secondary schools and pupils;

(iv) Production of textbooks and other educational materials.

(b) Training is directed towards a targeted audience and seeks to impart specific technical skills having an immediate practical application. Examples include the ability to gather, model and interpret climate data, to conduct inventories of national emissions, and to formulate national action plans. Training activities can include:

(i) Technical and specialized training;

(ii) Meetings of a specialized nature for specific target groups, including workshops, seminars, conferences and briefings;

(iii) Production of specialized documents.

(c) Public awareness raising aims to create an interest in and concern for certain issues in the hope that this will translate into changes in attitude and behaviour. Public awareness activities on the part of governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector are often carried out via the media. Public awareness activities can include:

(i) Meetings, including workshops, seminars, conferences and other forums, networks, debates and study tours;

(ii) Events, exhibitions and campaigns, including the designation of a climate change day;

(iii) Production and dissemination of information through brochures, newsletters, press releases, web sites and television and radio programmes;

(iv) Wide dissemination, including translation into appropriate languages, of study and research results.

(d) Public participation in climate change issues can be defined as processes involving people directly in the understanding, evaluation, prevention and correction of climate change problems. Such activities can include participation in:

(i) Stakeholder policy dialogues;

(ii) Consultative groups;

(iii) Volunteer projects;

(iv) Non-governmental organization projects;

(v) Debate groups and community projects.

(e) Subregional, regional and international cooperation in the above activities can enhance the collective ability of Parties, and of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to implement the Convention, improve synergies between different conventions and ultimately improve the effectiveness of all in implementing efforts towards sustainable development.

C. Towards an SBSTA work programme

Operational objectives

15. The operational objectives of an SBSTA work programme on Article 6 are:

(a) To promote the implementation of Article 6;

(b) To assist Parties in the implementation of programmes and the development of national strategies;

(c) To promote and facilitate the exchange of information and material;

(d) To enhance cooperation and coordination of activities at international and regional levels.

The SBSTA

16. To support efforts of Parties to meet their commitments contained in Article 6, the SBSTA may wish:

(a) To agree on a five-year Article 6 work programme. The implementation of this work programme could start after the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) in 2002 and be reviewed in 2007, with an intermediate review of progress in 2005;

(b) To request Parties to prepare a report on their efforts to implement the work programme for the purpose of reviewing the programme and evaluating its effectiveness in 2005 and 2007;

(c) To develop revised guidelines or recommendations, by the time of COP 9, for reporting on the implementation of Article 6 activities in national communications. Parties would be requested to provide their views to the secretariat by 1 December 2002. In addition, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations could be invited to provide their views;

(d) To decide whether to propose the designation of a climate change day.

Parties

17. Parties may wish to consider developing national strategies to support the implementation of Article 6. As part of their national strategies, Parties could:

(a) Develop a directory of organizations and individuals, with an indication of their experience and expertise relevant to Article 6 activities, with a view to building active networks involved in the implementation of these activities;

(b) Designate, and provide support to, a focal point for Article 6 activities and assign specific responsibilities. These responsibilities could include the identification of opportunities for strengthening synergies with other conventions and the identification of areas for possible international cooperation;

(c) Prepare assessments of needs in the area of the implementation of Article 6, specific to national circumstances;

(d) Enhance efforts to develop curricula and strengthen teacher training as effective methods for ensuring that climate change issues are addressed at all educational levels;

(e) Develop criteria for compiling and disseminating information on good practices for Article 6 activities, in accordance with national circumstances;

(f) Consider opportunities and strategies for the wide dissemination of information on climate change, including on the IPCC Third Assessment Report;

(g) Develop institutional and technical capacity to identify needs for the implementation of Article 6, to assess the effectiveness of Article 6 activities and to consider the linkages between Article 6 activities and other commitments under the Convention, such as technology transfer and capacity-building;

(h) Undertake efforts to seek input and public participation, including participation by youth, in the formulation and implementation of their efforts to address climate change;

(i) Encourage the involvement and participation of representatives of all stakeholders and major groups in the climate change negotiation process;

(j) Increase the availability of copyright-free materials on climate change.

Intergovernmental organizations

18. The SBSTA may wish to invite intergovernmental organizations, including convention secretariats:

(a) To continue supporting efforts to implement activities under Article 6 through their regular programmes, and through specific programmes focused on climate change, including, as appropriate, through the provision and dissemination of relevant information, and financial and technical support;

(b) To develop programmatic responses to the five-year Article 6 work programme and, following consultations with the UNFCCC secretariat, to communicate through the secretariat such responses and progress achieved to the SBSTA for the purpose of reviewing the programme and evaluating its effectiveness in 2005 and 2007;

(c) To submit views, through the secretariat, on the revised guidelines or recommendations for reporting on implementation of Article 6 activities in Parties' national communications, by 1 December 2002;

(d) To strengthen collaboration with other intergovernmental organizations in order to ensure coordinated support to Parties in their activities relating to Article 6, with a view to avoiding duplication of work.

Non-governmental organizations

19. The SBSTA may wish to encourage non-governmental organizations to continue their activities relating to Article 6, and in particular:

(a) To organize meetings, conferences, workshops and symposia;

(b) To provide presentations, classes and lectures at universities and other venues;

(c) To publish and disseminate information materials on climate change, such as reports, briefing papers, brochures, leaflets and press materials, through newsletters, books, the Internet, television, radio and other media;

(d) To conduct research activities contributing to the work of the UNFCCC, national governments and other bodies working on climate change policy.

20. The SBSTA may also wish to invite non-governmental organizations:

(a) To report to the secretariat, through their recognized constituencies, on progress achieved for the purpose of reviewing the Article 6 work programme and evaluating its effectiveness;

(b) To submit views to the secretariat, through their recognized constituencies, on the revised guidelines or recommendations for reporting on implementation of Article 6 activities in Parties' national communications, by 1 December 2002;

(c) To consider ways of enhancing cooperation between non-governmental organizations from Annex I and non-Annex I Parties.

Secretariat

21. In accordance with Article 8 of the Convention, the SBSTA may wish to request the secretariat to facilitate efforts under the Article 6 work programme and, in particular:

(a) To compile the views from Parties, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, on possible revised guidelines or recommendations for reporting on Article 6 in national communications, for consideration by the SBSTA at its eighteenth session;

(b) To prepare regular reports to the SBSTA on progress achieved by Parties in implementing Article 6, based on information contained in national communications;

(c) To facilitate coordinated input into the five-year Article 6 work programme from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

(d) To develop a compilation and synthesis of progress achieved in the implementation of the Article 6 work programme for the SBSTA, based on input received from Parties and observer organizations, to allow for the intermediate progress review in 2005 and the review in 2007;

(e) To develop a network of key national, regional and global institutions working on Article 6 matters;

(f) To continue work on the structure and content of an information clearing house and to identify institutions which could provide ongoing support and a home for such a clearing house;

(g) To prepare a paper on possible options for increasing the participation of youth in meetings of the Conference of the Parties, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) at its eighteenth session;

(h) To prepare an inventory of events relating to Article 6 being organized by intergovernmental organizations and other conventions.

D. Financial resources

22. In developing the Article 6 work programme, the SBSTA may wish:

(a) To invite the financial mechanism of the Convention to provide financial resources to eligible countries for implementing Article 6 programmes at the national, subregional, regional and international levels, as appropriate;[1]

(b) To recall that no resources were allocated to Article 6 within the present programme budget and to invite Parties in a position to do so to contribute supplementary resources to the secretariat for the purposes of implementing the activities proposed. Furthermore, the SBSTA may wish to invite the SBI, when considering the programme budget for the next biennium, to take note of the related financial requirements.

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[1] Guidance to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) was provided by the COP in its decision 6/CP. 7; paragraph 1(h) states that the GEF should provide financial resources for undertaking more in-depth public awareness and education activities and community involvement and participation in climate change issues (FCCC/CP/2001/13/Add.1). The COP, at its seventh session, also took note of the SBSTA conclusions urging "the GEF to make financial resources available for this purpose" (FCCC/CP/2001/13/Add.4, chapter V.B, para. 4).